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Title

Service provisioning in a telecommunications system comprising call
control service capability servers

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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to service provisioning in a telecommunications system, and more specifically, to a telecommunications system which is comprised of configurations of service switching point (SSP), service capability servers (SCS) and service provisioning equipment.

Background of the Invention

The number of services that can be offered over telecommunications networks and the integration of the services within modern society has increased rapidly over the past decennia. Services are becoming more and more sophisticated, and can be accessed by any user from any location at any point in time. The introduction of the universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) has accelerated this development even more.

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In general, in a telecommunications system, services are offered over the network using service capability servers (SCS). These service capability servers are responsible for management of the service and the telecommunications infrastructure required to provide that service. In the hierarchy below the service capability servers, the telecommunications infrastructure is comprised of service switching points (SSP), which are interconnected with each other. Service provisioning equipment, such as media servers, and user equipment, like a telephone set or a mobile phone, also connects to the service switching points.

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In recent years, UMTS has triggered the development of the so-called open service architecture (OSA), in which service providers can

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CLAIMS

1. A method of service provisioning in a telecommunications system, which telecommunications system is comprised of configurations of service switching point (SSP), service capability server (SCS) and service provisioning equipment, which configurations are configured to provide services to users, wherein the provisioning of at least one of said services requires the involvement of more than one service capability server, characterized in that the course of action required to set up the service is controlled via direct interaction between the service capability servers involved.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said interaction comprises exchanging of instructions.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said instructions trigger the establishing of a communication link between a user and service provisioning equipment of said telecommunications system.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein prior to said direct interaction between the service capability servers involved, at least one of said service capability servers instructs said service provisioning equipment to reserve at least one communication port for establishing said communication link.
5. A method according to claim 3 or 4, wherein following upon said direct interaction between said service capability servers, one of said service capability servers instructs an service switching point to establish a connection with said service provisioning equipment.
6. A method according to any of the claims 3-5, wherein said establishing of a communication link is the establishing of a speech channel.
7. A method according to any of the claims 3-6, wherein upon establishment of said communication link, at least one of said equipment involved in the connection reports the establishment of said

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communication link to one of said service capability servers involved in the provisioning of service.

8. A method according to any of the previous claims 3-7, wherein upon establishment of said communication link, one of said 5 service capability servers instructs the service provisioning equipment to perform an interaction sequence with said user.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said service provisioning equipment reports the results of said user interaction sequence to one of said service capability servers.

10. 10. A method according to any of the claims 3-9, wherein said interaction between service capability servers involved in the provisioning of service comprises the exchange of instructions triggering the disconnection of said communication.

11. A method according to any of the previous claims, wherein 15 said service provisioning equipment comprises a resource server, such as a media server, and wherein said interaction between said service capability servers triggers the setup and disconnection of a communication link between a user and said resource server.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said 20 telecommunications system further comprises an application server running at least one application that can be accessed by said users, said service provisioning equipment is a media server, and wherein prior to said interaction said application is accessed by a user via a service switching point and a first service capability server, upon which a user 25 interaction request is forwarded by said application server to a second service capability server, upon which said second service capability server instructs said media server to reserve a communication port, following upon which the step of said direct interaction between the 30 service capability servers involved is comprised of said second service capability server instructing said first service capability server to establish a speech channel between said service switching point and said

reserved communications port on said media server, after which direct interaction said first service capability server instructs said service switching point to establish said speech channel, and after establishment of said speech channel said media server sends a report to said second service capability server, upon which said second service capability server forwards said user interaction request to said media server and a user interaction between said user and said media server is performed, after which the result of said user interaction is returned by said media server to said second service capability server and said second service capability server forwards said result to said application running on said application server, after which said application server acknowledges the ending of said user interaction request, upon which a second step of direct interaction between said service capability servers is comprised of said second service capability server instructing said first service capability server to terminate said speech channel, which first service capability server forwards this instruction to said service switching point, which service switching point will terminate said speech channel, and after which said user continues to have access to said application via said service switching point and said first service capability server.

13. An arrangement for the provisioning of services via a telecommunications network, such as a universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS), which arrangement is comprised of configurations of service switching points (SSP), service capability servers (SCS), and service provisioning equipment, wherein the provisioning of at least one of said services requires the involvement of more than one service capability server, characterized in that the service capability servers involved in the provisioning of said service are arranged for controlling the course of action required to set up the service via direct interaction between said service capability servers.